[English]

Modernisation of Postal Services

706. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to modernise the postal services through the induction of new technology in the country particularly in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for expansion of postal services in inaccessible, hilly parts and rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The Mid Term Review of the 8th Plan of the Department of Posts (1992-97) as carried out in 1994, in consultation with the Planning Commission, and a decision was taken to take action to transform the postal system into a modern one with necessary technological inputs.

(b) Post Office are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of target and resources. While for opening post offices in rural areas, a population of 3000, minimum distance from the nearest post office of 3 kms. and the minimum anticipated revenue earned of 33-$^{1}/_{3}$% of the cost has been fixed. For hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas the norms for population and anticipated income have been further relaxed. While the population in these areas should be 500 in an individual village or 1000 in a group of villages, the anticipated income has been fixed at a minimum of 15% of the cost.

Membership of Vishwa Yuvak Kendras

707. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total membership of institutions, social organisations and club affiliated to Vishwa Yuvak Kendra in the country as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the budget allocation earmarked for the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Vishwa Yuvak Kendra is a Non-Government Organisation. As reported by the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, the total number of institutions, social organisations and club in India, affiliated to it, as on date is 8000. The State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No Budget allocation has been earmarked for the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra for the current financial year.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Institutions, Social Organisations and Clubs in India Affiliated to Vishwa Yuvak Kendra as on Date
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	469
3.	Assam	286
4.	Bihar	410
5.	Delhi	995
6.	Goa	208
7.	Gujarat	316
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50
9.	Haryana	294
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	105
11.	Kerala	549
12.	Karnataka	302
13.	Maharashtra	382
14.	Mizoram	56
15.	Meghalaya	55
16.	Manipur	266
17.	Madhya Pradesh	301
18.	Nagaland	205
19.	Orissa	486
20.	Rajasthan	252
21.	Punjab	239
22.	Sikkim	206
23.	Tripura	210
24.	Tamilnadu	474
25.	Uttar Pradesh	442
26.	West Bengal	392
	Total	8000

Public Participation in Conservation of Resources

708. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to encourage the public participation in conservation and the sustainable use of our resources;